(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में कब तक कार्यवाही किये जाने की संभावना है?

**खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह)**: (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**Demand to Enhance Allocation of Rice to Tamil Nadu**

765. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice allotted to Tamil Nadu per month under PDS;

(b) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has made a demand for allotment of more rice proportionate to the population; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to meet its demand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The present monthly allocation of rice to Tamil Nadu is 1.25 lakh metric tonnes.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In the month of February, 1995 the Govt. of Tamil Nadu had requested for increase in allocation of rice from one lakh tonnes per month to 1.25 lakh tonnes per month due to slow progress in procurement of paddy. The Central Government has increased the monthly allocation of rice, on adhoc basis, to the State to 1.25 lakh tonnes per month from April, 1995.

**US Pullout from Uruguay Round**

766. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the Hindu of 4th July, 1995 that US Pullout from Uruguay round hits India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Negotiations on financial services and the movement of natural persons, scheduled to be completed by 30th June, 1995 finally concluded on 28th July, 1995. The US had taken the position that in the area of financial services it will be taking an MFN exemption. To deal with this situation a proposal was mooted by EU that all members agree to a fixed term arrangement under which members other than U.S. will extend MFN treatment in financial services. This proposal was generally endorsed by all members and as a result for a period valid upto 31.12.97 members have tabled their modified market access schedules in the financial services sector, with improvements in certain cases. In the case of some countries including India their offers contain certain limitations vis-a-vis the MFN principle. India has taken sufficient safeguards to deal with the situation arising out of the U.S. position. Offers on movement of natural persons have, however, been tabled by member countries including U.S. on MFN basis. India is likely to benefits from the agreement on movement of natural persons and its position is not likely to be adversely affected by the U.S. position on financial services.

**Loopholes in PDS Network**

767. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in The Statesman dated 20th July, 1995 under the caption "Loopholes in PDS network spell doom for tribals";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; the facts of the matter and action taken/proposed thereon;

(c) details of additional arrangements made and fresh initiatives taken to give realistic/pragmatic reorientation to revamped PDS in favour of urban and rural poor and tribals;

(d) whether any evaluation of implementation of PDS in Tribal blocks/slum and rural areas have been taken; if so, the results thereof and action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of action taken against those indulging in malpractices of serious nature in PDS during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The Central Government arranges for the procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of key essential commodities for the PDS to the State Governments. Operational responsibility for actual distribution of the commodities to the consumers is that of the State Governments. Government of Maharashtra has reported that, based on the findings of an enquiry conducted into the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in Dahanu Tahsil, licence of three FPSs have been suspended. FIRs have been lodged against all the fiftyone Fair Price Shopkeepers for various irregularities and disciplinary action taken against officials/officers involved. Government of Maharashtra has reported that the District Supply Officer of Thane District has been transferred and the Tahsildar, Dahanu has been sent on compulsory leave. Government of Maharashtra have further reported that alternate arrangements have been made to reach foodgrains in Dahanu Tahsil.

(c) Central Government has been advising all the State Governments including the Government of Maharashtra to ensure all arrangements for proper stocking and distribution of PDS commodities particularly in areas covered under the Revamped PDS (RPDS). State Governments have been requested to ensure door step delivery of PDS commodities to the FPSs and to constitute FPS level Vigilance Committees of consumers to prevent diversion of PDS Commodities. Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments for the purchase of vans/trucks to be used as mobile FPSs or as door step delivery vehicles in the RPDS areas. Central Government also provides financial assistance to State Governments for construction of godowns of upto 2000 M.T. capacity in the RPDS areas.

(d) The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission has conducted an evaluation of the RPDS. The PEO report states that the RPDS Scheme is generally beneficial to the vulnerable sections of the population cutting across the regions and States. However, the PEO report has revealed some gaps and constraints which need to be taken into account for suitable interventions by the State Governments. The findings of the PEO study have been sent to the State Govts.

(e) Powers under the Essential Commodities Act have been delegated to State Governments for taking action against persons indulging in such malpractices. Details of action taken by State Governments against FPSs are not maintained by the Central Government.

**Major Projects in Maharashtra**

768. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) The names of the major projects in Maharashtra currently under execution being monitored closely at the apex level;